



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Videotape, Computers & Lasers as Art Tools

By Larry Beresford

The video opens with a shot of a hang glider taking off at Fort Funston and soaring over a familiar ocean. But glider, sky and ocean are soon transformed into otherworldly shades of yellow, orange, blue and violet. By the end of the three-minute flight, the glider is circling the ringed planet Saturn.

This gorgeous video flight, made possible by modern visual technology and accompanied by an electronic soundtrack, is part of "California Images: Hi-Fi for the Eyes," a 54-minute video cassette of video shorts by California artists. The visual anthology was recently released by Pilot Video, one of several Noe Valley enterprises which are bringing art and technology together, with fascinating results.

As computer and other high technology becomes more affordable and accessible, it creates opportunities both for people who might never have been artists before and for an audience that might not have appreciated art before.

Hi-Fi for the Eyes

"We wanted to put together an anthology of the best visual arts for a general audience," explains Pilot Video co-founder and Noe Valley resident Allan Kessler. The 20 features contained in



Computer enhancement, music, and the creative imagination find a fantastic fusion in Pilot Video's "California Images: Hi-Fi for the Eyes," from which this sample was taken.

"California Images" utilize computers, lasers, animation, visual synthesizers (which alter visual images and colors the way a Moog synthesizer transforms sounds), and video feedback (created when the camera is aimed back at a TV screen showing its picture).

Many of the visuals in "California Images" were created in collaboration with the new wave, new age and symphonic music that accompanies them, Kessler says. He compares the videotape to a record album and describes its contents as "visual music."

Although a music-and-art video has to overcome the association with the often simplistic, melodramatic and sexist rock videos shown on MTV, Kessler's "Hi-Fi for the Eyes" is breathtaking and pushes familiar techniques of computer video beyond what the average viewer is accus-

tomed to seeing. No pouting performers lip-synching their hits here.

Pilot Video began this project in the late 1970s to take advantage of the new video disk technology. When that technology failed to take off, Pilot Video negotiated distribution of its art anthology through Sony Video Software Operations. The tape was released in November of this year and is now part of Sony's catalog.

Kessler is also doing some grassroots promotion, concentrating on retail outlets where the video might be purchased (list price \$29.95), rather than on weekend video rental stores. Locally "California Images" is available at Star Magic on 24th Street.

Echoing the dilemma facing artists

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James Lick: How to Use State Bucks?

By Denise Minor

A new resource teacher, 30 computers, schoolyard improvements and expanded multicultural activities are some of the items on James Lick Middle School's shopping list for February, when the junior high should begin receiving \$323,535 from a special state desegregation fund.

The Noe Street school submitted a proposal outlining its spending priorities to the San Francisco Unified School District's Division for Integration in mid-November, following two weeks of meetings between staff, parents and students.

The fund was established to help fulfill a court order that demands both more desegregation and better education at integrated schools such as James Lick, Potrero Hill and Visitacion Valley, according to Division Coordinator Anthony Ramirez.

Around 40 teachers, students, parents and administrators attended a meeting Nov. 9 at the school to decide how best to earmark the funds. They came up with a lengthy list of school needs, which also included after-school tutoring, a new student adviser position, staff development, a counseling center, new exterior doors, and updated office equipment. But they focused on philosophical goals as well.

Lick resource teacher Carlos Florido said he would like to see training for

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Seeking Legal Spaces for the Ubiquitous Automobile

By Denise Minor

Finding parking in Noe Valley has become a science.

Some specialize in the illegal double-park. Shopping list in hand, they leap from their cars to buy a few necessities, hop in again and speed off before the cops arrive.

Others have clocked the traffic flow and plan their business day to arrive at the most opportune hour. Among these are Pastor Henry Partida and the members of his congregation at the Second Spanish Baptist Church on 24th Street, next to Bell Market.

"When we started seven years ago, we held Sunday service at 10 a.m., and there wasn't a parking problem," says Partida. "Then with all the people that come for brunch and shopping, we decided to begin at 9:30.

"Then they got smart and started coming earlier, so now we have to start at 9," he said.

Noe Valley Merchants Association President Ron Klein is not surprised to hear of the church's predicament. For years the merchants have been clamoring for a solution to what "is definitely a major problem" on and around 24th Street, he says. "We have only 14 off-

street parking spaces [in the public parking lot between Noe and Castro] for 200 businesses."

Among the legislative measures that are currently attempting to make room for a few more cars is the Silver-Pritikin Parking Plan to convert unnecessary or obsolete red, white and yellow zones to parking spaces. Sponsored by Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, entrepreneur Robert Pritikin and the Department of Public Works, the project already has freed thousands of feet of curb space around the city for parking, much of it at citizens' suggestion.

(At press time, the public works department had reviewed only one parking change request from Noe Valley, and that was for the elimination of a driveway at 240 28th St. between Church and Sanchez.)

But Klein and his fellow merchants feel it's time for more drastic measures. His organization has looked at creating parking spots at a 90-degree angle on wide streets off 24th such as lower Noe, lower Castro, and upper and lower Sanchez Street. A study showed this would add 14 or 15 more spaces, he said.

Another remedy the association has explored is eliminating the curbside bus stops and building concrete islands in the



"Once you have found it, never let it go." Rodgers and Hammerstein probably never visited Noe Valley, but their lyrics could have been written to describe people's attachment to parking spaces in our neighborhood. This all-too-familiar sight happens to be on Chattanooga, but a gathering of windshield tickets could take place anywhere. Photo by Mariella Poli

street instead, he said.

But in the long run, Klein thinks Noe Valley will need a full-scale parking facility. "Some don't want a parking lot. They say it would draw in people from out of the area or would be an eyesore," he acknowledged. "But as for myself, I think it would greatly help the parking problem."

He claims that a two-story lot with a basement could hold about 70 or 80 cars and would quickly pay for itself.

Bill Kuhns, president of Friends of Noe Valley, says his organization, which represents the interests of residents, sees the need for more parking, but takes a dim view of a large parking facility in Noe Valley. He fears such a development will only speed up the over-Yuppification and commercialization of the neighborhood.

"Every time 24th Street becomes a

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By Susan Koop

Special Thanks
to our

HOLIDAY CATERERS

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Cybelle's Pizza
Double Rainbow
Haystack Pizza
Holey Bagel

La Roca Restaurant
Pablo's Restaurant
Panos' Restaurant
Star Bakery
24th St. Cheese

and to our host

ZORBA'S

for their generous contributions
to the Noe Valley Voice Holiday Bash

• James Lick •

Continued from Page 1

teachers to encourage higher standards and school spirit.

"We need to develop a strategy to promote a sense of belonging, so the students feel they are part of the school," Florido said. "Also, we need to raise both our expectations and their aspirations. Our kids are as good as kids anywhere. And if our expectations are high, we'll get results," he said to a round of applause.

Parent Rolando Millena said he objected to using special funds for reconditioning school grounds when basic maintenance of school facilities should be an ongoing state responsibility.

"We shouldn't wait until somebody has a broken foot" before filling the gaping holes in the pavement of James Lick's schoolyard, Millena said.

Principal Robert Lustenberger agreed that the schoolyard should be fixed as soon as possible. But he added that there was nothing a school could do if funding were not available, which had often been the case since Proposition 13 passed.

"At one time, California was number one in the nation as far as spending on education for each child," Lustenberger pointed out. "Now we're 27th." He looks to the California Lottery as the salvation for state schools. "Through the lottery, schools can pick themselves up by the proverbial bootstrap," he said.

Student adviser Audrey Groomes said that funds for necessary improvements were a right of the community, but that sometimes parents needed to insist before they were delivered. "You have to put pressure on the school board," she told parents at the meeting. "If you and the teachers keep going down [to the board], you'll get something done."

English teacher Judy Holmes noted that parents were often more effective than teachers in bringing about change.

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"Teachers are seen as complainers. Parents have far more pressure and leverage," she said. "We may bring to you the ideas. But you as parents can get an awful lot done, and a lot quicker." □

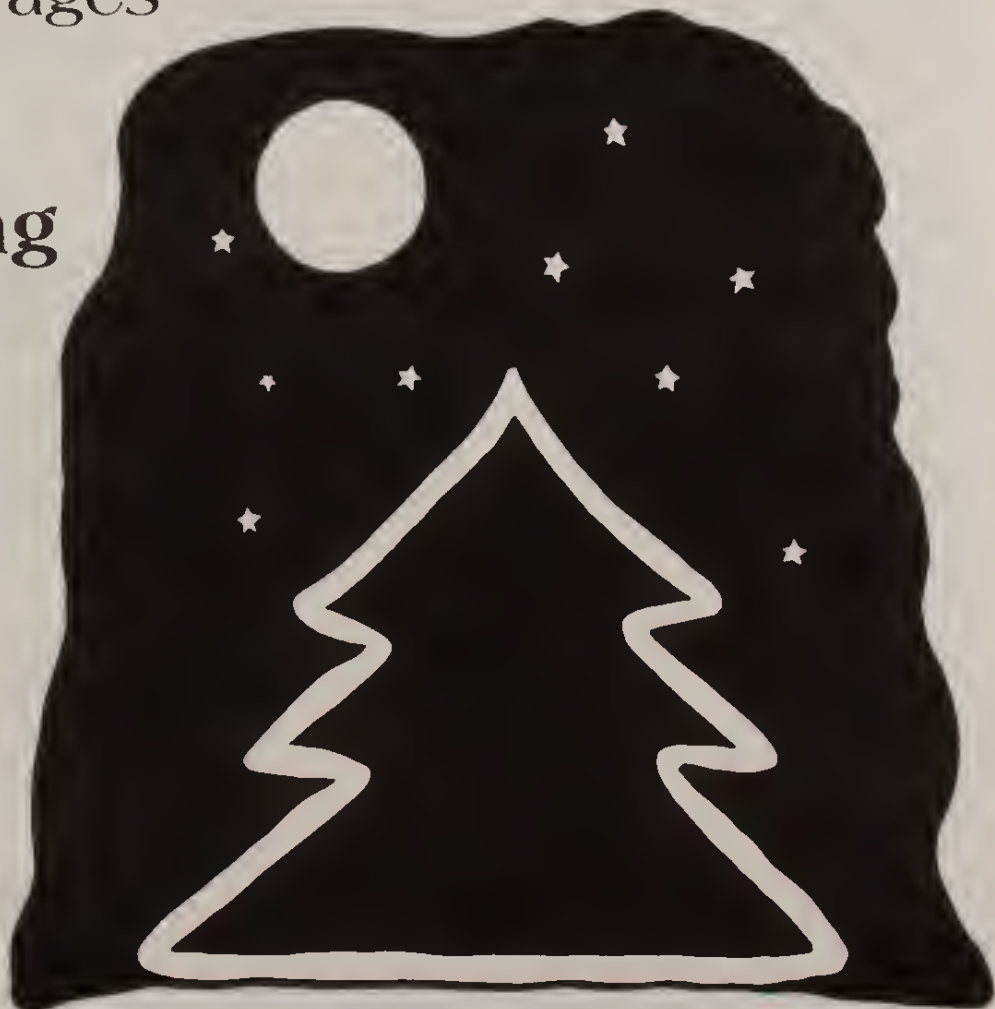


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Grassroots Producing at TV Ch. 25

By Annie Stuart

Noe Valley residents Judith Lynch and Frank Ahern have met only once or twice, yet they share more than the fact that they're both producers of public access television. They also share an ability to pursue their life passions, where others might be defeated by lack of time, energy or financial resources.

Lynch and Ahern both have full-time jobs, Lynch as a teacher, video producer and trainer for Community Boards, and Ahern as a financial analyst for Sprint Telecommunications. But in their "spare" time, each produces a weekly half-hour television program for San Francisco's public access station, Channel 25.

Viacom Cablevision has the franchise for this six-year-old community access station, which airs over 30 hours of public programming weekly. These are educational and special-interest shows produced by individuals and organizations from the community, as opposed to programming originated by the professionally trained staff members at Channel 25.

Ahern and Lynch are just two of the people who have generated a programming idea, secured the necessary training and production crew, and nurtured their creative fantasies into realization on Channel 25.

Lynch, a veritable wellspring of enthusiasm whose age is "somewhere from 11 to 50, depending on the occasion," hosts a program called "Our Town," which airs Mondays at 8:30 p.m. Irish-born Ahern, whose calm exterior belies a kindred spirit, is producer of "News Europe," which directly follows Lynch's program at 9 p.m. Mondays.

Lynch's show takes the viewer to little-known Bay Area places, people and events that exemplify the special, often eccentric character of our town. Ahern's "News Europe" reports on news, weather and sports from Ireland, Britain, France, Germany and Spain.

"Unfortunately, there is no way to tell how big your audience is," says Ahern, 43. At times he tends to feel a bit "invisible." But both Ahern and Lynch consider community access TV a valuable resource.

In Love with the City

Lynch's professional career began with a three-year stint at the San Francisco Planning Department from 1967-1970. After a year and a half in Washington, D.C., she returned to the Bay Area to work with the Stanford Research Institute as a housing specialist.



Noe Valley's Frank Ahern (far right at table) has come a long way from his native Ireland to produce public access television for Channel 25. Here he and the other panelists on "News Europe" tape a segment at the station's studios on Folsom Street.

While collaborating with the Mission Coalition organization to prepare economic development plans for that community, Lynch began what was to become a life obsession.

"During the course of doing all those dull studies about ownership patterns and housing conditions, I stumbled across Victorian buildings," says Lynch. She wondered, "What are all these weird-looking, peculiar houses with all that stuff on the front of them? What I read didn't satisfy me because I wanted to know who built these houses and why, and why they looked the way they did."

So Lynch set out to satisfy her curiosity. She quit SRI, obtained a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and conducted a survey of 13,487 Victorian buildings. Lynch laughs about it now, but in those days her research was so exhaustive, she "dreamed about houses."

"I had nightmares that maybe I missed one!" she said, breaking into the high-pitched giggle that has become her on-the-air trademark.

However, the long hours of wading through files in the Smithsonian Institution's basement and combing the streets of San Francisco eventually led Lynch to teach a class at U.C. Extension and to collaborate with one of her students, photographer Carol Olwell, on a book about Victorians called *A Gift to the Street*. She also wrote a monthly column called "Artifacts" that appeared in the *Noe Valley Voice* in 1981.

After launching the Friends of the San

Francisco Library's City Guides program, which offers free walking tours of the city, Lynch helped produce another hook, *Victoria's Legacy*, with architectural historian Sally Woodbridge. A review copy found its way into the hands of a KALW radio announcer who later suggested that Lynch do a radio series. Lynch's program, "A Walk with Judith," aired from 1979-1983.

In late 1983, Lynch was approached by Michael Spain, a volunteer producer at Channel 25, who suggested they work together on a video version of "A Walk with Judith." Spain proposed the name, "Our Town," and has served as cameraman and producer on Lynch's 50 "Our Town" programs to date. Some of these have been walking tours of neighborhoods like Noe Valley and Pacific Heights, while others have featured interviews with interesting San Francisco personalities. Lynch has also covered kooky events like the Mission Bay Olympiuck, a one-block run sponsored by the Mission Creek Conservancy to benefit the houseboat community in China Basin; and the Oakland Sewer Tour, an annual two-mile excursion into the Oakland underground.

She had a good time with the sewer connoisseurs. "Imagine 70 people in evening clothes and hip boots creeping over a chain link fence and descending into an open culvert" for a night under the town.

Lynch is impressed with the freedom she's found at Channel 25. "You don't have to worry about pleasing advertisers," she says, and the format "gives guests a chance to thoroughly explore a topic." She claims that her show gives people an "experience of San Francisco which is not available on commercial television."

The Continental Scoop

Frank Ahern's program is perhaps a bit more sedate, but its metamorphosis is no less interesting.

Raised in County Limerick, Ahern came to the U.S. in 1966 after obtaining a degree in electrical engineering in Ireland. After two years in Pittsburgh with the Westinghouse Electric Company, he moved to the Bay Area and attended Stanford Business School.

"My original intention was to stay in the United States for about five years," says Ahern, whose residency has stretched from five years to 20.

He did, however, make visits to Ireland and other European countries while working for an international marine operation called Crawley Maritime Corpora-

tion. He discovered on these trips that there were little "pockets" of Irish communities scattered around the world. "It struck me that it would be nice to have some kind of publication that would relate to the Irish people internationally," he recalls.

To obtain some media experience, Ahern wrote articles for the *Voice*, worked on developing a downtown newsletter for San Francisco, and applied for a position with the *New York Times*, believing that this employer might expose him to the nuts and bolts of publishing. The *Times* didn't hire him, but during the course of an interview hinted at the paper's growing involvement with cable television.

"That set off a whole new train of thought for me," says Ahern, who suddenly realized that an Irish video magazine program might be a suitable alternative to a print magazine.

Not one to be deterred by unfamiliar territory, Ahern jumped in with both feet. He recruited members of the Irish Theatre Company, of which he had become president, proposed his idea for a show called "Irish Magazine" to the staff at Channel 25, and took a TV studio production class at San Francisco State University.

With recruits from his class, Ahern put together a crew and for the next three years produced a program which spotlighted activities in the local Irish community, including dance, music, sports, politics, and reports from visiting dignitaries, as well as news from the old country.

Ahern then attempted to obtain programs directly from an Irish television station. The project, however, posed financial problems and met with resistance from Irish TV producers, who questioned the value of airing programs in only one American community. Ahern decided that if he were to develop broader support for future projects, he would need to expand the content of his program to include other European countries.

"News Europe," which features Ahern and others reporting on events in five countries, was the result.

With the support of a volunteer crew of about 20 correspondents, editors, technicians and production personnel—many of whom are Noe Valley residents—Ahern launched the show last July.

A Nov. 11 program included coverage of the French-sponsored "Eureka Project," whereby 17 European nations formally agreed to work together to "catapult Europe into the front ranks of



Seamus Murphy, director; Moria Luz Agudelo, technical director, and Noe Valleon Frank Ahern discuss last-minute production plans before taping a segment of "News Europe" for Channel 25.

Photos by Tom Wach

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Noe Valley TV producer and scholar of the city Judith Lynch, right, presides at Channel 25's studio with the assistance of Community Boards volunteer Don Tombe.

Photo by Charles Kennard

• Channel 25 •

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global high-tech competition." The Irish news segment focused on discussion of the Anglo-Irish political initiative that will give Dublin some voice concerning Catholics in Northern Ireland. News from Germany highlighted Jewish demonstrations against Rainer Werner Fassbinder's play "Garbage, City and Death."

The current format of "News Europe" consists of reports by five news correspondents, interspersed with question-and-answer dialogue between Ahern and each correspondent, followed by a light-hearted look at European sports, travel and weather.

Ahern admits that "News Europe" has a few glitches to work out, but feels the show is important, considering the paucity of international news coverage by Bay Area media.

"You really have to dig for it," says Ahern, whose eyes almost disappear when he smiles. "It doesn't chase after you."

Ahern has many ideas about possible format changes and may eventually try to get the program on Channel 6 or on a PBS station, which would give him greater audience exposure.

For now, both Ahern and Lynch are continuing their full-time paying jobs, which they thoroughly enjoy. But it's the work at Channel 25, the work which brings them no financial remuneration, that seems to be what keeps them and their dreams so alive and vibrant. □

• Parking, Anyone? •

Continued from Page 1

little more Union Street-ized we lose something. A laundry or shoe shop closes and in comes another boutique," Kuhns said.

For Klein, however, the question is

not whether to build a parking garage, but where. He says the city has the funds available. "It just needs some instigation" in the form of a feasible site plan.

Rich Nichols, aide to Supervisor Willie Kennedy, agrees. "There is always money somewhere. A lot depends on the viability of a proposal." Kennedy's office was instrumental in opening a parking facility in the Marina District.

And Supervisor Bill Maher won board approval last spring to set up an Offstreet Parking Fund, which, starting in 1986, hopes to build a garage a year in up to 10 congested city neighborhoods.

Klein says that is why almost every time a property owner on 24th Street considers selling, the association's parking lot dreams surface. The merchants' interest was particularly piqued a year ago when the Second Spanish Baptist Church announced it wanted to leave, partly because of parking problems.

But Pastor Partida said he received no offers for the property close to what it would cost the church to buy another site, so the congregation has stayed, adjusted its parking strategy, and decided to build a church extension next year.

Klein is hopeful that, with some ingenuity, another site can be found. He warns, however, that "unless someone picks up the banner while the money is available, it's going to be let go."

In the meantime, anyone with suggestions for the Silver-Pritikin Plan can call Silver's office at 558-2254 to request a Parking Action Request form. Kuhns says the Friends of Noe Valley will sponsor any reasonable parking-change requests from residents. "When we present something in the name of Noe Valley, it has a little more clout with City Hall," he said.

And until that clout pays off, Noe Valley commuters might also take the advice Partida is giving his congregation. "Maybe we'll just have to tough it and ride the bus to church." □

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• Art Tools •

Continued from Page 1

everywhere, Kessler laments that he and his three partners in Pilot Video must concentrate most of their energies on more commercial projects, such as ambient effects and light shows for nightclubs, computer graphics for television ads, and videos of dance performances. However, he hopes that "rock videos will move more and more toward visual music" of the likes of "California Images." He points approvingly to the quality of music video already produced by such musicians as Laurie Anderson and the Talking Heads.

In the meantime, "California Images" offers a score of visual treats. There's "Allegretto," an abstract animated piece produced in 1936 that brought its creator Oskar Fischinger to the attention of Walt Disney, who used him on the visual music film "Fantasia"; Philip Hopper's "Speed," which presents animated urban roadway scenes zooming by at motion-sickness velocity; Loren Carpenter's "Vol Libre," which offers a trip over a realistic mountain landscape entirely generated by computer; and "Moog Dance," by Video Free America's Skip Sweeney, another Noe Valley resident.

Specular Sculpture

"Computer-orchestrated light, glass and metal sculptures" are created by Noe Valley sculptor Marsha Nygaard and her partners using lasers. Commodore computers, light-emitting diodes (such as the self-contained blinking red lights seen on new wave earrings) and fiber optics. A dozen "modules" or sculptural pieces in Nygaard's Church Street storefront studio explore some of the visual effects of these technologies.

"Basically, I'm having a love affair with laser light," Nygaard says. "I am fascinated by the four basic properties of light: reflection, refraction [the deflecting of a light wave from the straight path as it passes from one medium to another], diffraction or bending of light waves, and illumination. These are the areas we are exploring here."

Nygaard is particularly enthusiastic about the "specular" or shimmering quality of laser lights and about finding ways to demonstrate that quality in her sculptures.

When giving a guided tour of her computer orchestrations, Nygaard emphasizes the technology and the scientific properties of light. But when pressed to explain her interest, she admits, "I'm just doing it because I can't not do it. I love reflected, luminous materials. I love light, and discovering what it will do. It's a sort of discovery—but that's what art is."

The pieces by Nygaard and her partners on display in the studio represent their "research and development mode," she says, but there are other applications of the art. They have received recent commissions for light shows for rock concerts and discotheques, laserium shows, and a huge one-ton glass and metal light sculpture hanging in the lobby of the El Cortez Hotel in Las Vegas.

Partner Craig Charboneau, who creates the self-starting computer programs for the lasers, is an engineering technician with Maxitron, a Corte Madera high-tech firm that develops programs for automated factories. He also does laser light shows that feature animated laser images, a bird flapping its wings, for instance.

Nygaard became interested in using light as a medium about four years ago, having worked previously with paint and sculptural materials such as fiber. "I'm not comfortable with the label 'high-tech art,'" she says. "I'm still a sculptor, but instead of a blow torch, I'm using a computer. From my point of view, it's simply another material."

The impression created by Nygaard's shimmering, glowing, dancing lasers in the darkened studio, with a symphony blaring on the radio, is hard to describe.



Sharyn Venit of Tech Art in the Noe Valley Mall hopes that the firm's exhibit of "Changing Faces" will show the possibilities of computer-manipulated graphics to good advantage.

Photo by Joel Abramson

During the recent Open Studio weekends, when artists all over the city opened their doors, more than 800 people visited Nygaard's space. "They come in off the bright street, their mouths open wide, and they just smile," she says. "When that happens, I'm really pleased."

For more information about Marsha Nygaard's laser sculptures or to make an appointment to see the gallery, call 285-8332.

Computer Faces

Tech Art, a computer graphics firm at 3915D 24th St. in the Noe Valley Mall, recently mounted "Changing Faces," an exhibit of digitized fashion photographs on display through Jan. 15. The display starts with a series of photographs by Irene Young of fashion models made up by hair stylist Shana Penn. The photographs have been scanned into an Apple Macintosh personal computer, manipulated in various ways, and then printed with the computer effects on Tech Art's Apple laser printer.

Although the exhibit primarily illus-

trates the potential of the Apple technology for graphic design and advertising, some of the more personal manipulations on display by artist Kim Payne of Tech Art suggest the potential art applications of the technology.

"We can vary contrast and brightness widely" with the computer, explains Tech Art's Sharyn Venit. "We can clean up shots by taking out shadows and manipulate the photo in a number of ways quickly. We can twist the photograph until it becomes a different thing than the photo itself," she says. Images take on various grid patterns characteristic of the computer process. Some of the pieces on display have been printed one section at a time on 8½" by 11" paper to form poster-size images.

Venit is also excited about the typesetting and graphic design potential of the Apple technology, which can merge photographs and type. The computer can also manipulate these elements and print out the composed page, thus eliminating the need for cutting and pasting on a board. Typesetting by personal computer

and laser printer costs far less than phototypesetting and can be accomplished with less technical training.

"The quality of our type is not as high as phototypesetting," acknowledges Venit's partner Diane Burns. But for many graphic purposes, such as ads in newsprint tabloids, the difference may not be detectable.

A recent rumor in the graphics field is that Macintosh technology and laser printers will soon be good enough and cheap enough to make the phototypesetting business obsolete. Burns asserts, however, that the typesetting business will change as a result of the Macintosh technology, but that higher-quality phototypesetting will still be needed for ads in slick magazines like *Time*. In the meantime, Tech Art is making the applications of computer technology accessible and affordable for the merchants and artists of Noe Valley. □



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Protesters Visit Desert Nuke Site

By Denise Minor

Two vans and a car pulled up in the clear October morning light to a circle a few yards from the entrance to the Nevada Test Site, the 100-square-mile desert expanse where the U.S. government tests its nuclear weapons.

Twenty-six protesters piled out to join others already there in deploying banners and signs. They came as part of a month-long national demonstration, held as a prelude to the U.S.-U.S.S.R. summit conference in Geneva.

Marleen Aaron of 26th Street and former Noe Valley resident Jack Trainor represented the Noe Valley Freeze Group at the test site demonstration, which was sponsored by a coalition of nuclear freeze groups around the country.

To the east of the site entrance sits Mercury, a tiny town lying within U.S. Department of Energy boundaries. Beyond the mountain ridge behind Mercury is Yucca Flats, the pock-marked prairie where most of the weapons are tested. Since a 1963 treaty banning atmospheric testing, all U.S. detonations have been below ground.

"I came because I wanted to see where these weapons are being tested," Aaron told the Voice. "I wanted to see the life of the desert, to realize the potential for total destruction that lies below it."

About 5,000 employees pass through the nuclear facility's gate every day, mostly commuting from Las Vegas, 65 miles to the south. But on this day, Oct. 27, five members of the national freeze group walked in symbolic protest across the metal grates at the test site's entrance to face immediate arrest by Nye County sheriffs.

Earlier in the day, the entire group had marched one by one through the desert to the gate, where three sheriffs and four private security officers paced back and forth, glancing at their watches and at the rising sun.

The protesters formed a circle, sang songs and declared their reasons for coming and their hopes for the future. "We have a golden opportunity here to end testing forever," said Trainor. "The Russians have taken the first step by declaring a moratorium. All we have to do is go along with it."

The circle broke, and the five who intended to be arrested separated from the others. Eric Ferry, Bill Goode and Andrea Elukovich from San Francisco and two other representatives, one from Los Angeles and one from New Jersey, approached the gate while the others cheered.



Joe Joins Ice Cream War

Double Rainbow Ice Cream co-founders Mike Sachar and Stephen Fink, second and fourth from left in photo, have discovered (as have the 49ers) that "the best offense is a creative defense." The key defensive player in Double Rainbow's struggle with ice cream competitor Häagen-Dazs is Joseph L. Alioto, former mayor turned attorney, shown here at center. The Double Rainbow duo and their counsel held a press conference Nov. 21 to air some of the details of their dispute with Häagen-Dazs over national distribution of their premium scoops. Fink, a Douglass Street resident, told the assembled press that he had filed a countersuit to Häagen-Dazs' suit against his locally based company, claiming that Häagen-Dazs was merely trying to "aggravate" him and force him out of the marketplace. The results of Double Rainbow's "motion to disqualify," filed by Alioto, were unavailable at press time.

Photo by Joel Abramson

Lt. Jim Merlino, a slim man with warm blue eyes, warned the five that they were about to trespass on federal property. Then in unison the protesters stepped across the grates. Quietly, they were led to police cars where they were charged.

"What do you think of all this?" Ferry asked an officer.

"I'm glad you've got the right to do it," he responded. "But I think you're a pain in the rear end."

Elukovich and the New Jersey participant were arraigned and later sentenced to three days of community service. Ferry, Goode and the Los Angeles representative chose to pay a \$240 fine rather than stay for a hearing.

The next day, the group packed the vans for the 12-hour trip home to San Francisco. Once back, Aaron and Trainor reported to their freeze group and to the Noe Valley Affinity Group, which promotes civil disobedience as a form of protest against nuclear armament and U.S. intervention in Central America.

For Aaron, the Nevada experience was both personally inspiring and a shot in the arm for local anti-nuclear activities. She and the other members of the three-year-old Noe Valley Freeze Group have been frequent petitioners on 24th Street,

garnering support for such causes as a ban on nuclear testing, opposition to "Star Wars" development, and the fight to keep the U.S. Missouri warship out of San Francisco Bay.

On the second Wednesday of every month, the group sponsors letter-writing evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, mobilizing people to let public officials know about their opposition to weapons testing, apartheid, U.S. Latin American policies and other issues. In April the freeze group hopes to begin offering films, speakers and other programs.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 20, the Noe Valley Freeze Group will hold a candlelight vigil from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on 24th Street between Noe and Sanchez. Supporters will pass out Christmas cards along with reminders that everyone can do something for peace on earth.

"It's a bit of a hint that people don't have to remain passive when it comes to peace," said Aaron. "We did this two years ago, and people thanked us for reminding them about what is really important while they are rushing around for the holiday season."

Aaron invites those who want more information about the group's activities to contact her at 621-0858.

NOE VALLEY VIGNETTES



By Florence Holub

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Breaking the Cycle of Violence Against Kids

By Lisa Hoffman

Child abuse is a dark, ugly secret for families caught in the generational cycle of violence. The San Francisco Child Abuse Council, located at 24th and Castro Streets, has fought this cycle for 12 years.

The Council is a tightly-knit team of three women who work to educate the public and professionals, and to raise funds for other child abuse agencies which provide direct services.

Few organizations dealing with child abuse existed in San Francisco in 1973, when the Council was founded. "Our role was to get money to create these agencies," explains Kathy Baxter-Stern, executive director of the organization.

The money that the Council continues to raise, from private and corporate sources, is doled out to the child abuse agencies that now exist, many of which the Council helped create. One such group is a stress hotline for parents called TALK (Telephone Aid for Living with Kids), which was established in 1974. Council members saw the need for a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week phone counseling service, now operating from 441-5437. Other agencies include Children's Emergency Services and a San Francisco Parents Anonymous chapter (a self-help group).

The Council also developed a format for handling physical and sexual abuse cases for the Bay Area's hospitals, created the first national program in the area of institutional child abuse, and designed a sexual abuse education program for elementary school children.

Baxter-Stern sees some improvement in the range of child abuse-related ser-

vices available in San Francisco since the Council's inception. "It's still lacking, but we're getting better," she says, attributing the improvement partly to "increased public awareness" in the last few years.

Issues related to child abuse are numerous and complex, Baxter-Stern explains, and that is why public awareness is so important. Often parents hatter their young—emotionally, physically, or both—because they themselves were abused while growing up. It is a learned cycle of violence.

"You want to stop the cycle" and teach healthy, loving ways of relating to children, says Baxter-Stern. The parents' re-education also involves understanding the factors that lead to child abuse.

According to Baxter-Stern, one important factor is economics. When unemployment rises, so does the number of reported cases of child abuse, she notes.

She adds, however, that middle- and upper-class white child abusers are more likely to go unreported than their poor, minority counterparts. "There is five times the chance of being reported for child abuse if you bring in your injured child to the emergency room and you are poor and black. Middle-class families have 'accidents.'"

The truth is that child abuse crosses all economic and class lines, but "it's real difficult to reach wealthier families."

Lack of adequate childcare is another factor which contributes to the incidence of child abuse, especially these days, with the steady rise in single-parent households and number of families where both parents hold down jobs. Con-

cern about the cost and logistics of obtaining childcare can lead to an overwhelming amount of stress and frustration for parents, and, ironically, their children often suffer the consequences.

"I think if we had more adequate childcare, child abuse would be lessened," says Baxter-Stern. But, in her view, services for children do not seem to be very high on this culture's priority list.

Other cultures also need to be reached about child abuse, especially in the ethnically diverse San Francisco area. Often acts that are seen as healing or appropriate discipline in other countries are seen as abusive when they're performed in the United States. "There's been a clash in cultural practices," says Baxter-Stern.

The Indo-Chinese, for example, traditionally placed hot coins on the body to cure fevers, believing this practice would draw the high temperature out of the body. It is a painful practice that can result in scarring, yet it is still considered acceptable folk medicine by some Indo-Chinese immigrants.

Baxter-Stern doesn't want to see such groups prosecuted. "What we look for is intent," she explains, "and often the intention is to help the child." In such cases, community child abuse agencies can help educate people and change potentially harmful practices.

"We have a lot of unique needs in this city," says Baxter-Stern, "and the more families we see, the better we're getting at halting child abuse." □

Free Enterprise Wins on Noe Street

By Denise Minor

Michael Roberts won his war to continue regular garage sales from his 1134 Noe St. garage when San Francisco Municipal Court threw out a case against him on Oct. 22.

Though the sales had been an almost weekly event for the past three years, they were halted July 13 when police responded to a complaint from a neighbor. The police issued a ticket under a municipal code that Roberts says was misinterpreted.

"There is no law against garage sales as long as it's your stuff, not anything on consignment," he said at his "grand re-opening" Nov. 9. The code also states that garage sales must not block the sidewalk.

At the October hearing, which followed a district attorney investigation into the matter, the court dismissed the case, saying Roberts had broken no law. Roberts never learned who had lodged the complaint against him.

"The judge asked me if I would mind keeping things off the sidewalk, and I said all right," said Roberts, "even though by law you only need to leave a clearance of six or seven feet."

Roberts said he averaged about one garage sale a month, although in warm weather he often held more. □

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Season's Sounds

Whether because of religion or just plain raucousness, the holidays are a time for joyful noise, and this winter Noe Valley is no exception.

Take, for example, the rare appearance of guitarist John Fahey at the Noe Valley Ministry on Friday, Dec. 27, at 8 p.m. Fahey produced a half-dozen albums of fanciful, crystalline instrumentals based on folk themes that delighted listeners back in the days of flowers and beads. He'll be joined here by Dale Miller of our own Noe Valley Music store, and you can find out more by calling 821-6644.

Ina Chalis has developed her widely-requested Opera Ensemble out of her home on Hoffman Street. She'll bring the ensemble to the newly remodeled Community Music Center at 544 Capp St. for two performances on Saturday, Dec. 14, of "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a classic Christmas operetta by Gian Carlo Menotti. The earlier performance, at 11:30 a.m., is part of the center's Annual Benefit Party, and the second performance commences at 2 p.m. Both the party and operetta are ideal for kids and family, so call 826-8670 for details.

The Noe Valley Music series (not to be confused with the store) showcases the Clubfoot Orchestra later that same day (Dec. 14) at 8:15 p.m. at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Loosely typed as new wave, the group has provided background music for the Ministry-based Tour de Force theater troupe. The following Saturday, Dec. 21, the series ends the year with the lyrical folk quartet Golden Bough in a Christmas concert, also starting at 8:15 p.m. In the happy new year, listen for jazz pianist Jessica Williams' last concert before returning to Europe (Jan. 11); Bonnie Barnett and Tunnel Hum (Jan. 25); and the neighborhood's favorite singing son, Bobby McFerrin (Feb. 1). Call 282-2317 for more information on the series.

Better Watch Out

Aside from the fun and the fellowship, the holidays can stress you out some, so here's some ways to lighten the load.

Options for Women Over Forty, a resource and support center headquartered in the Women's Building on 18th Street, has domestic workers to help with the loads of laundry, ironing, mending, childcare, and health care associated with the season. Call Susan at 641-7727 if you need help.

P O Plus has the people to help you get your gifts to your faraway loved ones via mail, UPS, or Federal Express, and

SHORT TAKES



No, Cristo hasn't turned the corner of 23rd and Noe into his latest conceptual art project. It's just some considerate house painters who have protected the neighboring houses by getting all wrapped up in themselves.

Photo by Joel Abramson

they'll properly and prettily wrap them. They also have personalized Christmas cards, stationery supplies, stamps, metered mail, Western Union and other services, and they're located nearby at 584 Castro St. (864-5888) and 2966 Diamond St. in Glen Park (239-1090).

And if you or someone you know feels financially incapable and/or depressed

and frustrated about the whole thing, remember the Holiday Connection, sponsored by the S.F. Council of Churches. By calling 800-255-8787, folks can connect with trained volunteers who will advise them of Christmas and Chanukah celebrations; special programs for children, singles and seniors; outlets for food, clothing, and toys; and other info.

Feds Indict Weir in Visa Scam

By Denise Minor

A federal grand jury has indicted Noe Valley businessman John L. Weir and three associates for running a fraudulent work-permit service for would-be immigrants to this country. The indictment followed a search by the feds of Weir's office at 4069 24th St., as reported in the October Voice.

Weir is charged with fabricating employment offers, creating dummy companies, forging employers' signatures and using other false information to obtain labor certification for 13 foreign clients. If found guilty, he faces a maximum of 65 years in prison and a \$1,080,000 fine.

The three others named in the indictment, Francis Suryan, Leo Booth and William Furlong of San Pedro, allegedly worked as "runners" for Weir by lining up phony job offers from employers in Los Angeles and Orange counties and in the Needles area.

In an Oct. 25 release, the U.S. Department of Labor stated that Weir assisted at least 200 aliens from the Middle and Far East in seeking permanent visas to work in the U.S. Before it allows a foreigner to apply for a visa, the labor department must conclude that there are not enough American workers able, willing, qualified and available to do the job the alien would take.

Weir has maintained his 24th Street office for six years but lives in Daly City. According to the California State Bar office, he was an immigration attorney until 1979, when he was disbarred for unethical practices. He was born in India and received his law degree from LaSalle Extension in Illinois.

Part of the evidence for the prosecution's case against Weir was obtained in an Aug. 23 raid of Weir's Noe Valley office. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Attorney's office participated in the investigation. □

Comic Relief

You'll outdo Santa on ho-ho-ho's and help a good cause if you catch the San Francisco *Comedy Times* Christmas Party, benefitting the magazine produced right here on 27th Street. Emcee Steve Carey will bring the likes of Billy Jaye, Larry "Bubbles" Brown, Mike Ferrucci, Rob Becker, Roh Schneider, Tom Kenny, Tree, and Steve Kravitz, who's the subject of the cover story in the *Times'* upcoming January issue, available all along 24th Street. There are threats or promises of renditions of "Blue Christmas" by Schneider, "Ohio Christmas" by Brown, and an impersonation of Father Christmas by a famed funnyman/surprise guest. Catch it all at Tommy T's, 1655 Willow Pass Road, in Concord (BART-able) starting at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, and call Editor Jean Teeters (826-4372) or the club (686-LAFF) for details.

¡Feliz Navidad!

We're lucky to be living in an area where we can have more than just a middle-class "white" Christmas, and on Dec. 20 there'll be a chance to experience La Posada, one of Mexico's yuletide traditions, and to benefit the homeless victims of the devastating September earthquakes in that country. The event starts at 6 p.m. in the Mission High School auditorium (18th Street between Church and Dolores) and features regional and traditional music, including Jarocha and Huasteca (from the east coast of Mexico), Nortena (from the north), mariachi, and corridos, as well as performers from the New Song Movement. Phone Mario Rodriguez at 664-3875 to find out more.

Faithful Friends

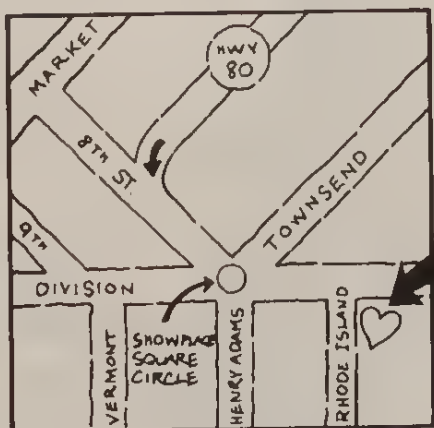
As far as the Friends of Noe Valley are concerned, business comes before pleasure. The business will be dispensed with at the Steering Committee meeting which will be called to order Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at James Lick Middle School, on Noe Street between Clipper and 25th. Issues facing the neighborhood's largest resident/activist group include support for a hottle-recycling bill, and everyone is urged to attend.

Later, on Sunday, Jan. 5, comes the Friends' general meeting, from 4 to 7 p.m. at 875 Castro St., which is really the Annual Holiday Potluck, with some chance for business between bites. If you'd like to join in time to join in, call President Bill Kuhns at 826-2304.

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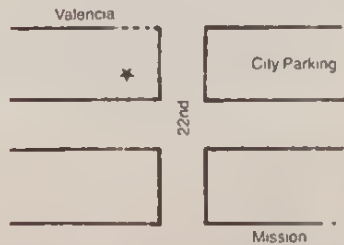
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Coleman Advocates Fight for Children's Rights

By Ellen Trabley

As we all know from reading each year's election results, Noe Valley is a pocket of enlightenment in the big gray overcoat of San Francisco, whose style is growing more conservative all the time.

Noe Valleons, therefore, should be particularly pleased to find out about Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, a group of people working hard to get the city's kids what they need.

"In the past 25 years, San Francisco has changed from being a small town with families in residential neighborhoods to being a major financial center focusing on its financial development," points out Margaret Brodtkin, executive director of Coleman Advocates, located at 2601 Mission St. near 22nd. (The number of children in the city was 40,000 less in 1980 than 20 years before, and one in four kids here now lives below or near the federal poverty level.)

"Children generally in our society, contrary to people's rhetoric, are not a priority," Brodtkin says. She notes that federal social service programs have been cut more than any other budget item, with children's services cut three times more than any other social service programs.

"Kids are not a political constituency—they don't have economic power," Brodtkin explains. "They're a population's most vulnerable group, yet there's usually no one representing their interests in lawmaking bodies."

But Coleman is doing just that. Brodtkin says, "We see ourselves as a voice for children in San Francisco, saying to City Hall, 'You have got to protect children's services that families need to hold it together, to continue to live here.'"

Right now, a lot of the agency's energies are focused on convincing Mayor Dianne Feinstein to put out \$1 million to reopen the supervised playgrounds program, which was serving 4,000 kids a day until Prop. 13 in 1978.

Coleman has already cleared the way: the San Francisco Board of Education recently agreed to lease school playgrounds and gyms to the city for a dollar a year. And Supervisor John Molinari said he would initiate the legislation necessary to budget the million dollars the Recreation and Park Department needs to run the program.

Coleman is a non-profit organization, with all of its operating funds coming from individuals, corporations, and foundations who care about kids. "As an independent organization—not dependent on the city for funding—we tend to pick issues that people avoid," Brodtkin says. "We don't have to worry about what we say."

Brodtkin described Coleman's approach to the overwhelming universe of children-related problems in San Francisco. "We pick something small and doable, rather than something global. That's the tactic we've been most successful with."

Coleman's history is interesting. About 1970, a woman named Jean Jacobs was on a radio show, talking about an organization she'd formed called Citizens for Juvenile Justice. At that time, explains Brodtkin, "Kids who were abandoned, who were neglected, who were abused—they all ended up in Juvenile Hall. Every kid who needed help was treated like a delinquent."

A woman named Gertrude Coleman heard Jean Jacobs on the radio and phoned in to say she wanted to fund an agency to work for the reform of the city's woeful services to its children. After several years of community meetings and planning, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth was born in 1975.

Margaret Brodtkin has been its executive director since 1978. "Some of our guiding philosophy has been that kids belong in families, kids belong in communities, and we don't need to institutionalize as many kids as people seem to think we do," she says. "San Francisco for years was way above the national average in how many kids per capita were institutionalized."

While there's no scientific explanation for this phenomenon, Brodtkin suggests it was sort of a tradition that mushroomed. Once parents in other places heard of San Francisco's reputation, as Brodtkin puts it, "They would just come here if they wanted to get their kids into an institution. You know, 'If I can't get my kid into foster care in Alameda, I'll go across the Bay.'"

Although Coleman has been instrumental in effecting many important changes in city policy to meet the community's needs better, "It's an endless nightmare," Brodtkin says. "There's just such resistance to reform and change. San Francisco has this image of being progressive and so liberal, but its institutions are really very conservative."

Coleman Advocates has been working with officials of the Department of Social Services and monitoring the work of the Juvenile Justice Commission. It has called the public's attention to children-related problems by interesting the media in these issues. Members of Coleman's board have worked with the Mayor's Advisory Council on Children and have written endless reports and proposals, responded to concerned community groups, and met with professionals serving abused and neglected children.

Who are the people doing all this work? One is Stan Weisner, a lecturer at U.C. Berkeley who puts full-time energy into a part-time position as consultant on child welfare. Another is Merle Bachman, who runs Coleman's seventh-floor office suite and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, "Youth Issues." And then there's the very active board of directors, many of whom have been with Coleman for a good part of its existence.

"Our board members are an interesting group of activists who care about kids and have found us as a way they can work on behalf of kids," Brodtkin says, "although sometimes we find them."



If Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth has its way, these kids will have a place to play. Coleman is currently encouraging City Hall to re-open the school playgrounds program, closed since 1978 and Prop. 13.

Photo by Joel Abramson

"There are people on our board who are opposed to Manhattanization and this is the way they work for reasonable growth, in the context of children."

"Then there are people who go back 15 and 20 years in their efforts to make San Francisco's social service and criminal justice systems more humane—public interest lawyers and social workers and professionals who became frustrated with the system. Some have retired and now have the latitude and freedom and time to come and be on our side."

This crew of ardent people has its hands full. Some of the other problems Coleman is currently addressing are: the 1,000–2,000 teenagers living on the streets of San Francisco, many of whom are runaways from around the country; the city's dreadfully inadequate emergency shelter for abused and neglected children, designed for 80 and harboring 220 kids as of last month; and the lack of delinquency prevention programs, which results in thousands of youths being sent every year to Juvenile Hall.

But Coleman's most current and immediate issue is the playgrounds, which symbolizes the agency's change in direction from focusing on high-risk kids to advocating services needed by all children, including high-risk.

"It will ultimately be up to the mayor to decide whether children are a priority for the city or not," Brodtkin says. "We think re-opening the playgrounds program would be a very concrete way this city could say, 'These kids are important.' If we can spend money on a stadium, we can spend money on making playgrounds available. What's a more basic thing you can do for city kids?"

For a copy of "Youth Issues" or other information, or to volunteer human or financial resources, call Coleman at 641-4362. □



Illustration by Jane Russell

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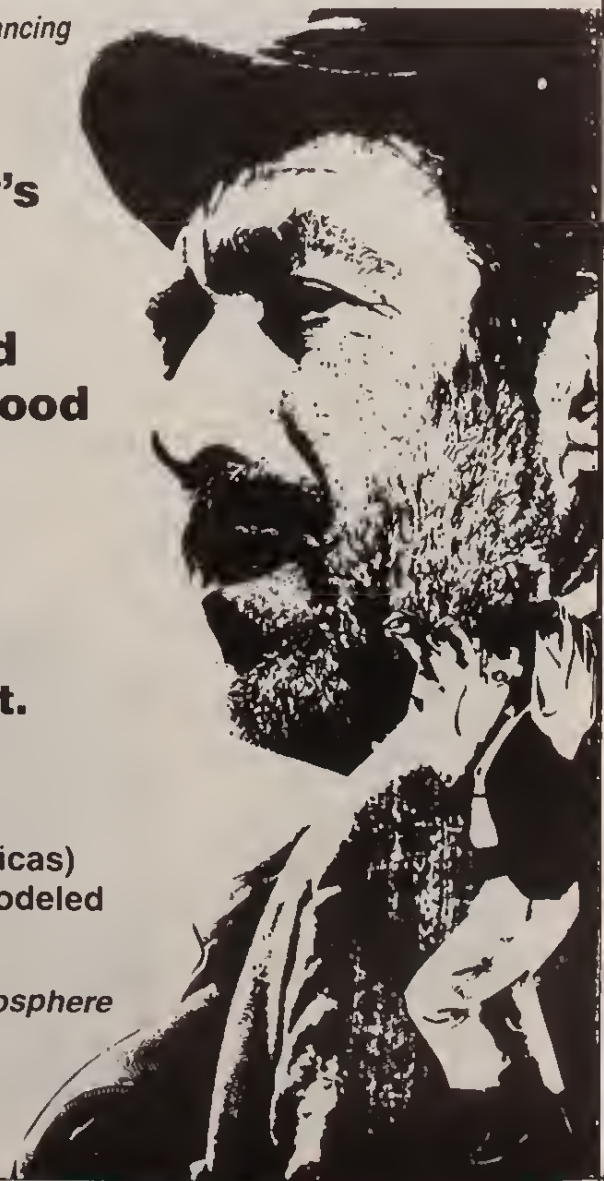
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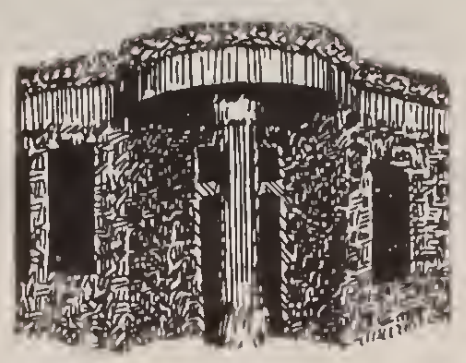
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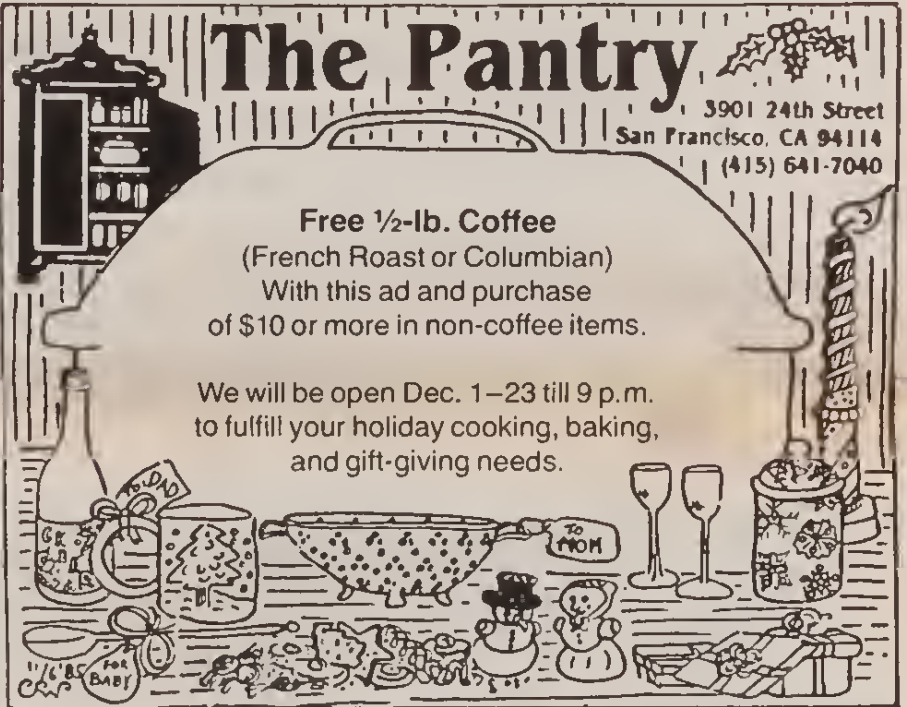
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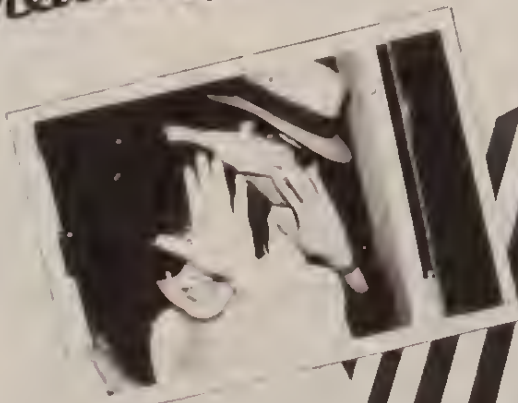
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Tom Hollis Wins First Prize in Fiction Contest

In case there was ever any doubt, the Voice's fiction contest proved beyond a shadow that the Valley is flowing over with writing talent. Thirty-four short stories were received by the Nov. 1 deadline, and the variety of style, tone, and subject matter boggled the minds of our six judges, drawn from the Voice staff.

When all was read and done, however, we were able to choose a grand prize winner: Tom Hollis' "Fort Worth." Hollis received a check for \$100 and publication of his story in this issue.

Bred and educated in Arkansas, the soft-spoken Hollis admits he's never been to the site of his story but liked the sound of the city's name. Inspired by a newspaper article, he wanted to explore the impact on a family of a criminal act by one of its members.

Hollis, 39, is presently serving time as a speechwriter for AT&T, but has sent out a half-dozen fiction pieces to small literary and other magazines. His "Born on Valentine's Day" was recently published in *Chiricú*, an Indiana University periodical, and he'll be reading at Modern Times bookstore, 968 Valencia St., on Jan. 14, a week before his own birthday. After he has a dozen stories in the can, he'll seek out a book publisher.



Writer Tom Hollis relaxes in his apartment on the upper reaches of Sanchez Street after being congratulated on his winning submission to the Voice's fiction contest.

Photo by Charles Kennard

The Voice also congratulates the five runners-up, who won gift certificates usable at Noe Valley print outlets. Mary Moser's "High Speed in a Dry State"

and John Cleary's "Sunset at Lizard Rock" tied for second place. Other winners were Teri Adams, Gwen Carmen and Leslie Woodward.

Our thanks to all those who submitted stories. With such an impressive response, there will be more contests to follow! □

Fort Worth

By Tom Hollis

It is the moment he has waited for. Yvonne De Carlo, "Buccaneer's Girl," 5 p.m., Channel 49. Adrift in a Hollywood bed on the outskirts of Fort Worth, Vern aims serrated fingernails towards the Cheetos. Sprawling in front of the television, he resembles some stuffed object, a Raggedy Andy or a healthy scarecrow. For this he hardly blinked an eye through "Gentle Ben," "Petticoat Junction," "Andy Griffith," and "Wonder Woman." He did doze in fits and starts through most of an Abbott and Costello programmer that featured ghosts from the Revolutionary War, but he sat up on one elbow during College Basketball and smoked cigarettes and thought about James Edward in junior high. The ponk, ponk, ponk of the ball in the driveway in the

after-school stillness. James Edward would always holler "Two points!" when he lobbed one in, just like there was always somebody around to hear him, and he'd come into the house whistling and banging the screen door when it got dark.

Except for a couple of trips to the bathroom during which he hardly glanced at the dishes piled up in the kitchen sink, Vern has hardly budged an inch all day. Not since tuning in to "Francis Joins the WACs" at 6 a.m. He could have changed channels, but he didn't. Bad TV and good TV are not that easy to tell apart, he always says. Still, it keeps him sort of in touch with the world from his peak-roofed bedroom atop the Sea-Soul Cafe. Kitty the cat roams the premises and leaves paw-prints in the dust on the plastic dust cover of the stereo. She occasionally pads across Vern's legs making fathomless inquiries with Egyptian eyes, but Vern's attention, such as it is, doesn't waver from the screen.

Sometimes, Vern thinks, he can get his life in order for an hour or two at a time. He'll psych himself into it. Sometimes he

calls in sick to the shoe store and stays home and throws out mildewed leftovers and scrubs down the refrigerator with a mixture of ammonia and hot water. He waters his few God-forsaken plants, and he tries to balance his checkbook. On days like that, he sinks into his vinyl recliner with a cold beer and a fresh pack of Kools to watch "Imitation of Life" or something on Midday Matinee and thinks everything will be all right. On other days, his mother is weeping on the phone to him about things done and said that can't be undone or unsaid and why couldn't he come to Lubbock to be with her now of all times, and Lord, Honey, she just doesn't know how much more she can take. Then there's little Prothro of the patent leather hair and the pointy chin needling him about his weight and threatening to fire him for mixing up the shoe sizes again; Kitty's been gone a week and probably dead somewhere; and newspaper people are making him crazy wanting to know what kind of kid James Edward was. "Was he violent?" a voice on the phone will growl and Vern will say,

"Never," and chew on his lips to keep from mentioning Chrissie and how she always got her way and how she got James Edward on dope and practiced her voodoo and how James Edward never hurt a soul, much less carried a knife, much less used one, before she came on the scene, and how it feels to wake up screeching so loud they bang broomsticks on the ceiling of the Sea-Soul Cafe.

Vern looks askance at the Clipper ship that flies its robust colors behind the credits. The ship's only rocking on a back lot swimming tank, he knows now, thanks to the Universal tour from when he went on vacation to California. But the movie ought to be diverting. That's what he needs. He wishes movies still looked like this. Color's really gone downhill. He smiles sadly at the sight of her name. Yvonne De Carlo. What a gal. She was made for those only-girl-on-a-ship-full-of-men movies. She could give the other ones lessons. Like Patricia Medina who was so hard to relate to in those strait-laced governor's daughter parts. And Maureen O'Hara could just wear you out with that goddam Irish temper of hers. Yvonne on the other hand, had a great personality. The life of the party. James Edward had a party once. In the ninth grade. Vern was living in Dallas and stopped off to say good-bye before starting out on a trip to Mexico and there James Edward was, sitting on a couch all alone, calmly waiting for his guests to arrive and he sat there still, hands in lap, when Vern left ten minutes later. Vern couldn't resist patting him on the top of his slicked-down head as he walked out the door. Afterward, he asked how the party was. "Fine," James Edward said. The smell of frying fish wafts up from the Sea-Soul Cafe. He decides to smoke another cigarette.

The Texaco sign lights up across the highway and filters through the plastic window shade, while Vern scans the credits. Who's this Philip Friend? Probably some contract player at Universal. Of course, Yvonne never needed a strong leading man. Her movies were Yvonne De Carlo movies. Like Bette Davis movies but dumber and sexier and in Technicolor or maybe some cheaper version of it. His eyes race to catch each name on the scroll of

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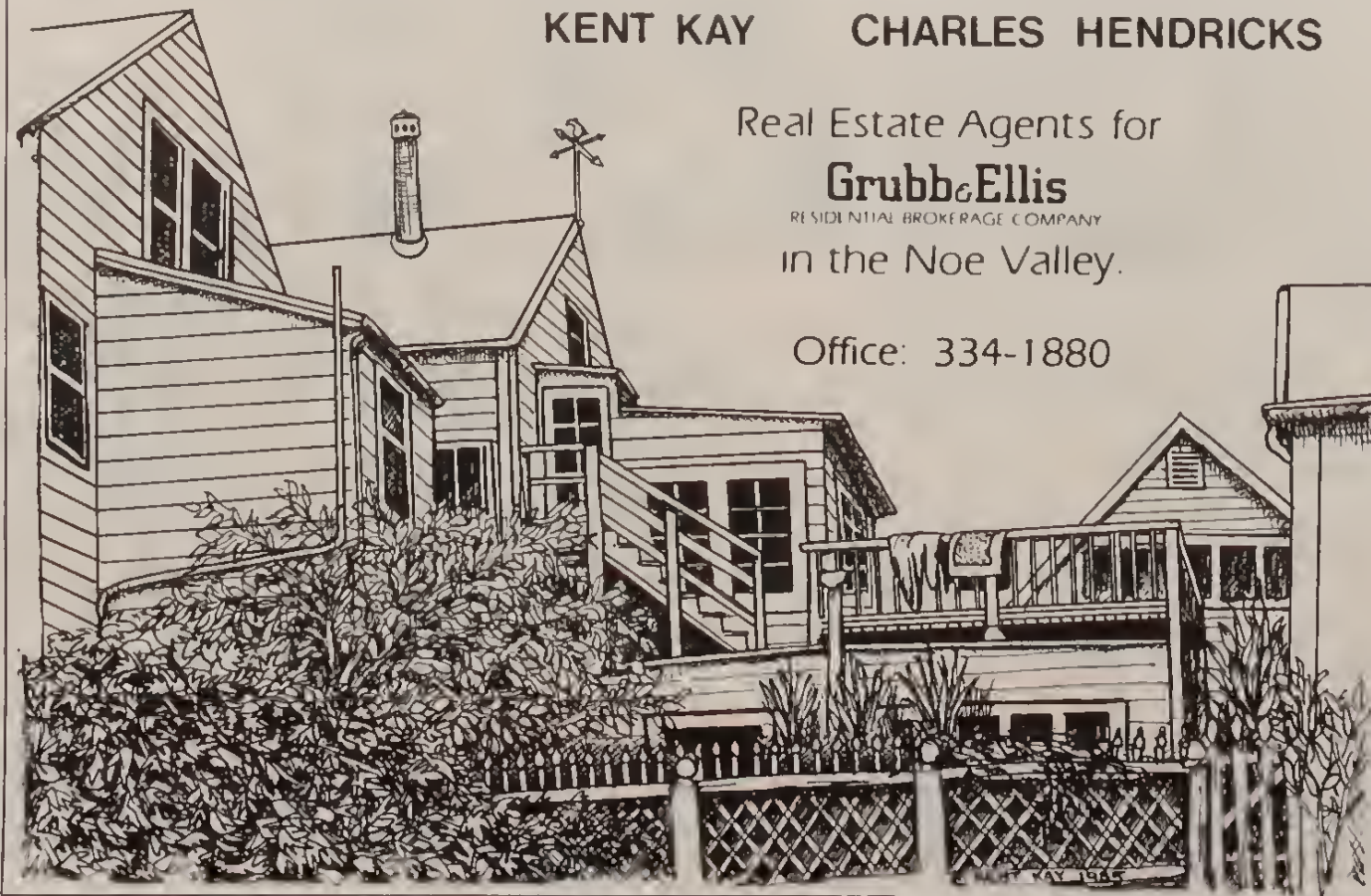




Photo by Lella Fiery

James Edward would always holler "Two points!" when he lobbed one in, just like there was always somebody around to hear him, and he'd come into the house whistling and banging the screen door when it got dark.

supporting actors. Elsa Lanchester's name leaps out at him like that of an old classmate. The bride of Frankenstein. Once, James Edward stayed up alone to watch "Frankenstein" on the late show. He must have been about 10. Just Vern and James Edward at home in that drafty old clapboard place off of 66. Cars whizzing by day and night, bound for California. Vern woke up at 3 a.m. and James Edward was playing solitaire at the kitchen table, every light in the house on. Said he just forgot and left them on. Said he was waiting up for Mom. Out with one of her boyfriends. Mom's boyfriends came and went. There was that one crepe paper wedding but it was always just the three of them. Mom working at the truck stop, calling all the truckers "Hon," her long hair dyed coal black...

So Yvonne's a stowaway, perky and sultry by turns, and not looking very much like the boy she's supposed to be dressed up as. The ship sets look very cardboardy. They should have gone for a little more realism in those shipboard scenes. Year before last, when James Edward got out of jail the last time, he said realism was getting to be more than he could handle and that's why he stayed loaded all the time. Sometimes he'd laugh with one side of his mouth, but he never looked happy. Of course, he never got loaded, or violent either, before that little Chrissie waiting tables in her little miniskirts started reading his palm out at the Chicken Shack. But it wasn't all her fault. Minutes pass before he looks up to see Yvonne involved in a hair-pulling match with some blonde, probably the governor's daughter. Vern says to Yvonne, "We've all got a lot to answer for." Kitty looks up startled from the floor where she's entwined in a bedspread tassel.

With an effort, Vern focuses on the lush, ruby red lips of Yvonne De Carlo. He wishes he could forget "The Munsters." But she probably got a lot of money for doing TV. He tries squeezing his head to eradicate the thought of money and is almost relieved to hear the phone.

"Hello?"

"Vern? It's James Edward."

Vern stutters his way through hello and asks how he's feeling.

"I'm feelin' all right," James Edward says in that dry way of his.

"James Edward, are you really all right? How are you feeling?"

"All right," he says.

Vern can't think of a thing to say.

"I'm ready as I'll ever be. I ain't scared of it no more."

"Did you call Mom?"

"Yeah, I called her. She's all right.

She's... you know, drunk."

Vern lays his head in his hand. "She wanted me to come down there, but I'm just so, you know, just so... tired."

"Yeah, I know."

"She always tried to do right by you, James Edward. You know that, don't you?" Vern clutches at his throat.

"Yeah, I know."

"Are you smoking?"

"Yeah. Quite a bit."

"I mean now. Are you smoking right now?" Vern hugs his robe tighter.

"No."

"Let's light us up one—me and you—

and smoke a cigarette together. Because my nerves..."

"All right."

Vern lights a cigarette in his twilight sanctuary and thinks about a candle in a church. He sighs a stream of smoke and says, "You know what I'm watchin' on TV, James Edward?"

"What?"

"I'm watchin' this Yvonne De Carlo movie. 'Buccaneer's Girl.' Pirates 'n ships, you know."

"I wish I was watchin' it."

"I do, too. I wish you was here watchin' it with me. I sure do."

The silence that steps in between them is not the easy kind they used to share.

"Elsa Lanchester's in it, too. The bride of Frankenstein, you know?"

"Oh, yeah."

"Yvonne's just got to town and Elsa's tryin' to teach her some city ways. I've been in bed all day watchin' TV. I don't feel like I can move."

"I know what you mean. I don't..."

James Edward clears his throat. "I wish you could just forget all about the last year. Or two years. And not remember me like that. Vern. You and Mom."

"Oh, James Edward, I..."

"I wish you could just remember me like I used to be," James Edward says.

James Edward used to wish for a million dollars that way when he was a kid. Vern opens his mouth but the words don't make it past the back of his throat.

"Listen, the guard's comin', I've gotta go."

"Okay. All right."

"Yeah, well..."

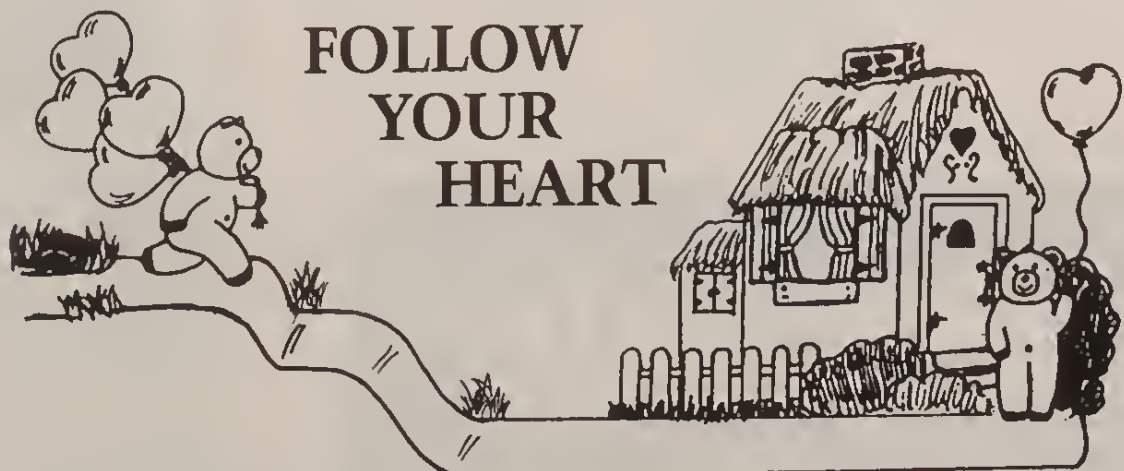
"James Edward?"

"Yeah?"

"I love ya."

"I know. I love you, too. G'by. Don't worry, all right?"

Vern cradles the phone quietly. He wipes his eyes on the bedspread and pets the cat. Yvonne De Carlo hoists a beer tankard and sings a rowdy drinking song in a saloon full of men. Vern gets up and opens the window shade to the distant lights of the city. It seems like the fish smell is seeping up through the floorboards tonight. It seems like the sun is sinking for the last time out there towards California. Out there towards Hollywood. He watches a bedraggled family get out of a dusty Volkswagen van and act out an everyday drama under the Texaco klieg lights—a mom and dad arguing over a map and kids scampering off to the restrooms. □



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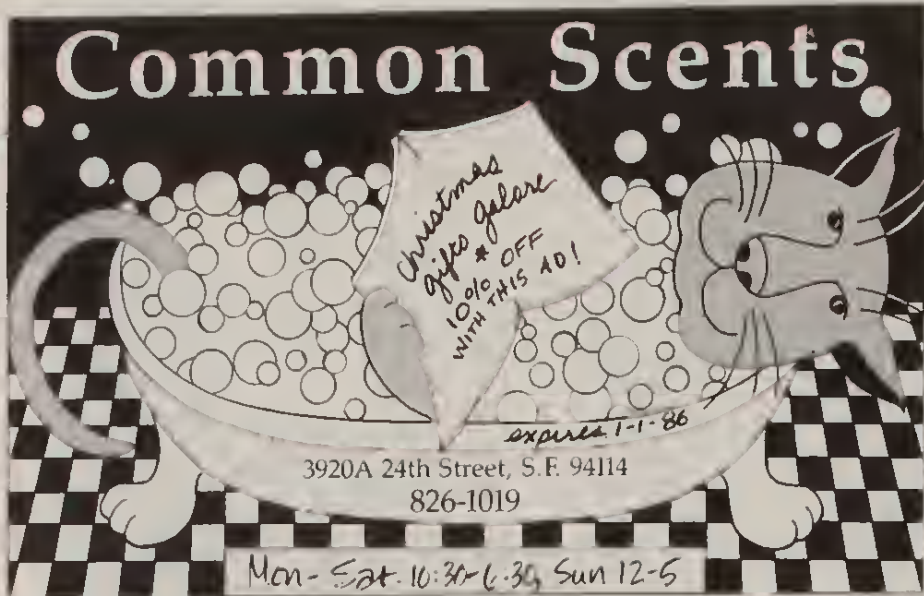
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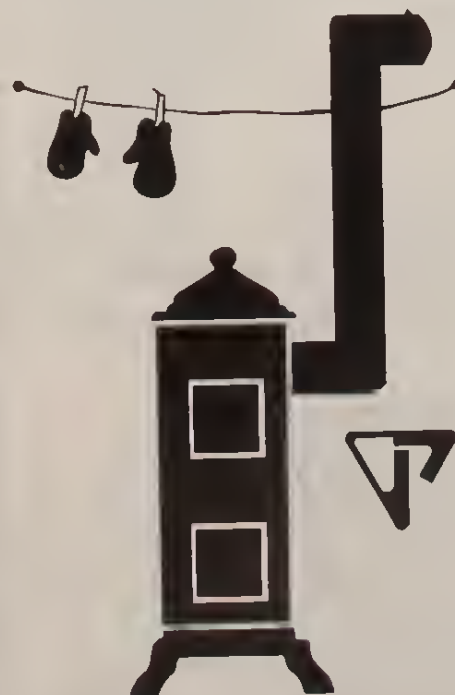
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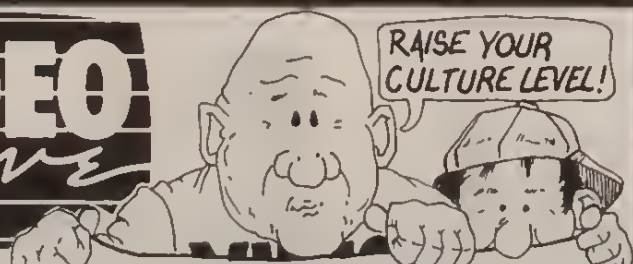
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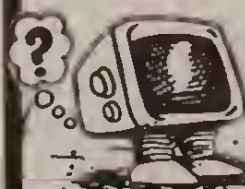
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Facing the Facts in the Fight Against AIDS

A University of California, San Francisco study of health care workers who care for AIDS patients has found no cases of disease transmission to health care workers not in high risk groups.

At a Sept. 30 meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, Dr. Julie Gerberding, a UCSF medical instructor, reported that 300 S.F. General Hospital physicians, nurses, laboratory personnel and other employees intensively exposed to AIDS patients had been enrolled in a susceptibility study since 1984.

Many of the health care personnel involved in the study worked with laboratory specimens from AIDS patients, and more than a third had sustained needle sticks or other accidents with contaminated fluids from AIDS patients.

According to Gerberding, testing of 240 of the 300 health care workers revealed that no antibodies to the AIDS virus were found in those health care workers who were not already in a risk category. Sixty-nine of the workers had repeat testing nine months after enrollment and had not developed AIDS antibodies during the follow-up period.

For purposes of the UCSF study, those defined to be "at risk" for contracting AIDS were homosexual men, women who had had sexual contact with partners who were at risk, intravenous drug users, and persons who had received blood transfusions prior to this year, when blood banks began testing blood for AIDS antibodies.

Fifty of the 240 subjects were indi-

viduals with risk factors for contracting AIDS. Of those 50, 15 were found to have the AIDS antibody. Fourteen of them had well-defined risk factors. (The fifteenth person had not yet been interviewed in late September to determine whether risk factors were present.)

"Several other studies of health care workers exposed to the AIDS virus are under way in the United States," Gerberding said. "The evidence from all of these studies so far indicates that occupational transmission of AIDS is an extremely uncommon event."

Gerberding pointed out that S.F. General Hospital was the only hospital in the country with a specialized AIDS ward for inpatients as well as a large outpatient AIDS clinic. This setting makes S.F. General Hospital health care workers one of the most heavily exposed groups in the world, she said. The majority of the individuals in the study had cared for AIDS patients for a minimum of two years prior to testing, and a fourth had been employed full time in the specialized AIDS units.

"The results of our study demonstrate that the AIDS virus is not readily transmitted to health care workers even when they have intensive exposure to patients with AIDS or AIDS Related Conditions," said Gerberding. "Not one of our subjects who is not in a high-risk group has the antibody."

She also noted that infection control measures designed to reduce exposure to blood and other bodily fluids appeared to be adequate in preventing the transmission of the virus.

The study of health care workers at S.F. General Hospital was funded by the University of California AIDS Task Force and will continue for three more years.

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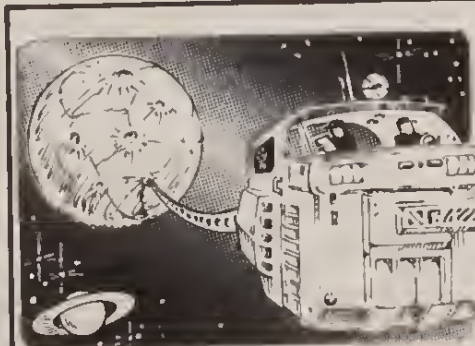


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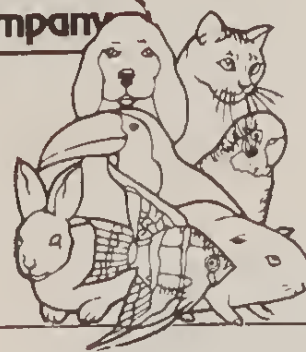
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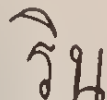
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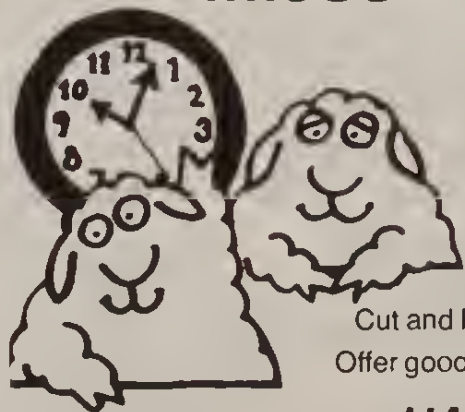
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

SHEAR DELIGHT

4155-A 24th St. 285-4243

Between Castro & Diamond

By Mazook

NOE NOEL: Year-end shopping panic grips the hearts and minds of all spirited Noe Valleons in these rush-rush days before Christmas. What do we get those special people? What do we buy for the big party? What about the kids? The mailperson? The paperperson?

As a public service, the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation has compiled the following list of unique gifts available right here in downtown Noe Valley.

For that pre-holiday party, may we suggest a Christmas houquet, always a welcome sight for your friends and neighbors. For \$25, Accent on Flowers (4080 24th St.) will put together a mini-myrtle/pine/holly/pinecone/holly berry/white and red carnation/white cushion pompon arrangement on a bed of red-wood greens. Hold the onions, please.

You might also want to arm yourself with some clever tree decorations. Cathexis (3927 24th St.) has some dandy glass kosher dill pickle ornaments at \$4.50 each. Or maybe a Halley's comet tree-topper from Church Street Faire (near 24th) will do. It's \$8.95.

Your huffet table would not be complete without a kilo (2.2 pounds) of Beluga Malossol Caviar, sure to raise the eyebrows of all celebrants. It's available from the Specialty Chef (24th between Sanchez and Noe) for a mere \$585, plus a 10 percent markup given to all Yuppies.

To go with the caviar, perhaps a little red wine would be in order. Caruso Liquors (4011 24th St.) has a magnum (that's two fifths) of Chateau Lafite-Rothschild, vintage 1970, for \$645.

For dessert, offer 'em the Buche de Noel from Cocolat, on 24th near Castro. This traditional "yule log" is a French confection consisting of cognac-flavored genoise (buttered sponge cake) filled with coffee butter-cream and trimmed with meringue mushrooms and pine sprigs. The price you pay is \$35.95 for the small one, \$54.95 for the large, and approximately 9,435 calories per slice, but who's counting?

Now what's a party without music? The host will get the most when you present him or her with an original edition of the 1966 Beatles album "Yesterday and Today," the one with the "Butchers" jacket showing the four mop-heads mixing it up in a meat market. Only 10,000 of these were printed before public outcry over the bloody sight forced Capitol Records to re-cover, so to speak. You could have bought it new for less

and now for the RUMORS behind the news



Making Her Own Mark for the Library

Nine-year-old Mission Street resident Diana Salazar displays copies of the entry which won her the junior prize for Noe Valley in the S.F. Public Library's annual bookmark design contest. Jeanne Cristomo, a 12-year-old from 25th Street, had the prizewinner among older kids' entries. Judges were Jeff Kaliss of the Voice and Joan Vigliotta of Cover to Cover.

Photo by Charles Kennard

than five dollars. But now at Street Light Records (3979 24th St.), this collector's item can be had for five dollars less than three hundred, make that \$295.

☎ ☎ ☎

FOR THE KIDS: Kidstuff at 1307 Castro St. has something to keep them busy over the holidays, an "Educube" (\$49.95). This is the Rubik's Cube approach to the art of block-building and comes complete with a 10-page instruction booklet that merely requires a degree in structural engineering to understand.

Those youngsters who are musically inclined will really enjoy a "Skylark" violin starters kit which includes not only the violin but also a bow and case. Noe Valley Music, on 24th near Sanchez, has this \$125 item, which is made in the People's Republic of China, where violining is a national pastime.

A somewhat larger thing to fiddle with is the four-foot-tall white polar bear at Soft 'N Cuddly (Noe Valley Mall) for only \$199.95. Small Frys, 4066 24th St., has a unique "Baby-minder," which is an all-cotton, bean-bag seat for new-horns made right here in S.F. by the Fourth Little Pig. It's \$39.95.

Noe Valley Collectables on 24th near Castro has a '56 Thunderbird metal model car for \$34.95. Much cheaper (79 cents each) are the dinosaurs that glow in the dark at Colorcrane, on 24th across

from Bell. Or how about those sponge capsules that turn into dinosaurs, trucks, jeeps and other monsters right in your kiddie's bath? They're at Common Scents, 3920A 24th St.—five capsules for \$1.50.

☎ ☎ ☎

FOR YOUR KINDA GUY, how about a pair of \$269 iguana-skin cowboy boots from Stagecoach II, now filling Red Peppers' old slot on 24th near the public parking lot. (Stagecoach I, by the way, is on Market near 15th.) For Mr. or Ms. Fix-it, Tuggey's Hardware, 3885 24th St., says their most popular Christmas gift is the basic 4-in-1 screwdriver, priced at \$6.45.

For your kinda gal, you might check out a new wacko kinda boutique (now sharing space with the Stagecoach) called Chocolat, Leather and Lace. This menage à trois sells women's leather, lingerie and imported chocolate candy. You could probably put together a rather interesting combo for less than a hundred bucks.

Perhaps more apropos of the lady or drag queen in your life is the \$185 two-piece, designer-made, silk and sequin evening ensemble at Jim Proby Inc., 4104 24th St. You also might want to throw in some designer nails available not at Tuggey's but at Fancy Fingers (located across from Jim Proby's) for 10 bucks a digit or 50 bucks a hand.

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FOR THE HOME: Star Magic at 4026 24th St. has "plasma transfer" globes which are illuminated by neon/argon gas light and at \$1,800 should stir some conversation.

Mike's Antique Lighting, occupying the ceiling at S. Davis Antiques at Church and Clipper, has a set of three signed Bradley and Huhhard dual-function (gas and electric) brass-stemmed light fixtures that came from the famous Biltmore House in Asheville, N.C. Thirteen hundred dollars buys the set.

How about an antique wood (fir), kerosene-heated chicken incubator, patented Nov. 28, 1899, from Homes of Charm on Church Street near Duncan. This \$950 item once had its home in the now-defunct French Bakery, located in the Hunters Point-Bayview District. Homes of Charm will also sell, for \$75, the 14-foot spruce baker's paddle that was used in the bakery's huge brick ovens.

Need something more exotic? The Animal Company, 4298 24th St., has a breeding pair of Plum-Headed Parakeets from India going for \$400. Optional is the "Jock Aviary" from Belgium (\$450) designed especially for breeding purposes. You will also need the wooden breeding box for \$8.59. Heck, I'll buy the breeding box if you buy the birds.

Perhaps something more utilitarian? How about a 100 percent Marino wool Victorian-style ceiling duster (with 6½-foot extendable handle). It's only \$15 at the Pantry, at 24th and Sanchez.

Something magical? The Philosophers Stone, 3814 24th St., has a first-edition, 10-volume set of magician Aleister Crowley's *The Equinox* that would look spiffy in anyone's revolving bookcase. It's priced at \$1,750.

Of course, a trip around the world is always a nice gift. Global Travel Too, 4005 24th St., has a "one-way" ticket for \$2,099. Well, see you around.

☎ ☎ ☎

OH, BEFORE I GO, a special hello to upper Noe Valley residents (for the past 26 years) Harry Bridges and wife Nikki. Harry, former San Francisco waterfront labor leader, is still active in the international peace movement and serves as vice president representing the U.S. in the International Liaison Forum for Peace. Harry says, "I am enjoying my retirement and am very much interested in world peace these days. I'll be 84 in July, you know." Let's hope that everyone shares Harry's gentle thoughts. Peace on earth, for God's sake. □

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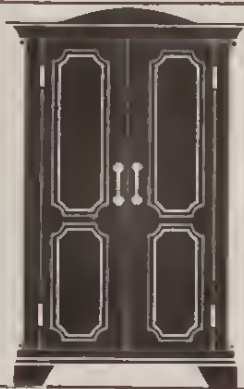
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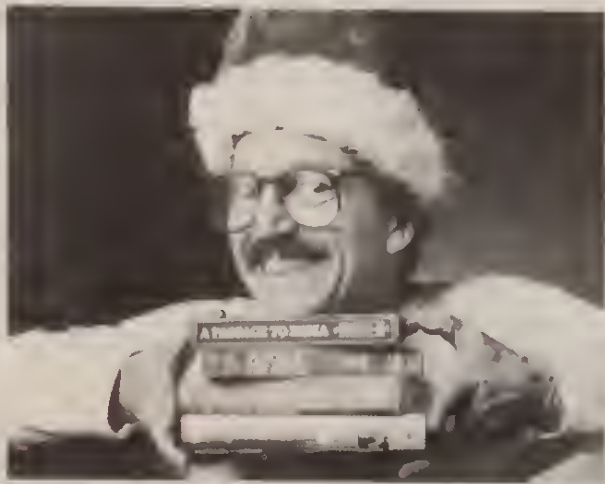
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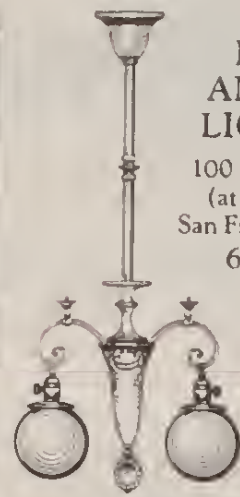
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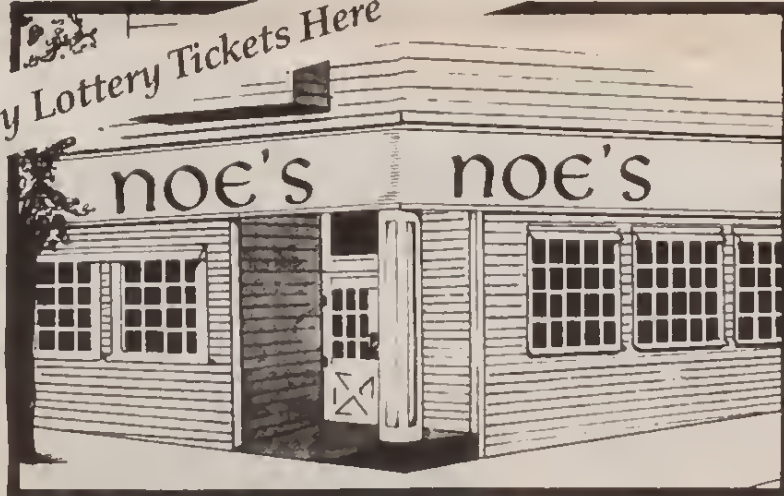
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New Local Books: Athletes' Days & Pinhead's Ways

By Jack Tipple

Noe Valley cartoonist Bill Griffith has piloted his character Zippy the Pinhead through 128 pages of "random activities and arbitrary donuts" in his new book, *Are We Having Fun Yet?*

Suitable for reading on the bus, in laundromats or at all-night convenience markets, this book promises to keep Noe Valleons one step ahead of boredom and one step beyond existential suffering.

The reader follows Zippy in his search for fun through 29 episodes (or "detours"), beginning in a universal classroom and ending in Jersey City. Along the route are chances to meet Jean-Paul Sartre as a golf caddy and Jack Palance joining the chiseled mugs on Mount Rushmore. The usual cast of irregulars—Shelf-Life, Vizeen of the Stupidity Patrol, and the moronic Claude Funston—assist Zippy in his quest until he finally discovers that the path is the destination. Or does he?

One thing is "fer sure": you'll have a "yow" of a time with this fourth Zippy book. It joins the mass of syndicated comic strips Bill Griffith has been producing since 1970. The Zippy episodes have appeared in the *Village Voice* and the *Noe Valley Voice* for several years and have recently been served up to be-

mused readers of the *San Francisco Examiner* six days a week.

This latest Zippy offering (complete with a fold-out map of "Zip World") is published by E.P. Dutton of New York and is available in Noe Valley at Cover to Cover Booksellers and Phoenix Books and Records for \$6.95.

Attention, sports fans and gatherers of modern miscellany! Noe Valley resident Ed Bury has published the most unusual Christmas gift you could find between covers: Eugene Lesser's *Sports Birthdays: The Fan's Daybook*. It's a pocket-sized folk encyclopedia that provides biographical summaries of and statistics on over 2,000 of the most famous and infamous athletes of our time.

Sports media junkies will remember Lesser's daily column in the *San Francisco Examiner* sports section which ran from 1983 until early this year. Lesser's book was compiled from this column, and with the help of small press publisher and photojournalist Bury, the ultimate complement to baseball cards was engendered here in Noe Valley.

Sports Birthdays is available at Cover to Cover Booksellers for \$9.95 or direct from our hometown publisher (P.O. Box 31123, San Francisco, CA 94131) for \$12, which includes shipping and handling. Enjoy.



Noe Valley cartoonist Bill Griffith appears to be confronted here by a life-size version of Zippy the Pinhead, the point of his new book, *Are We Having Fun Yet?*

Photo by F. Stop Fitzgerald



Eugene Lesser hunkers down next to his compendium of birthdates of famous athletes, released this year by local publisher Ed Bury.

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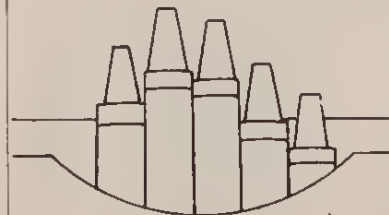
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Generally an "even-tempered" child, Zoe tends to get "real excited when she sees other kids on the street," according to Terri, who is happy about the apparent baby boom in the neighborhood. Street strolls are accompanied by Jasper, the family's attractive springer spaniel who "attracts a lot of attention, much more than the baby does." Dog and daughter actually have a benign relationship, reports Terri. "He likes her, mainly because she's a new source of food. He licks her hand, and she drops stuff on the floor." It's a dog's Zoe!

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Zoe Savitsky

Photo by Mariella Poli

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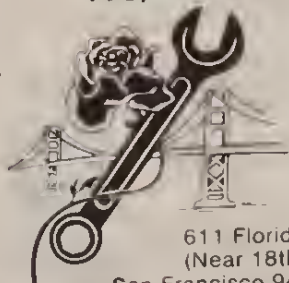
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Non-Fiction

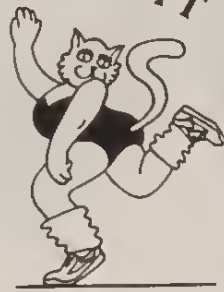
Mechanical Aptitude and Spatial Relations Tests—Arco
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DeLorean—John DeLorean
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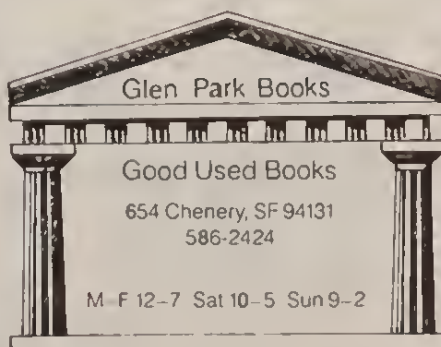
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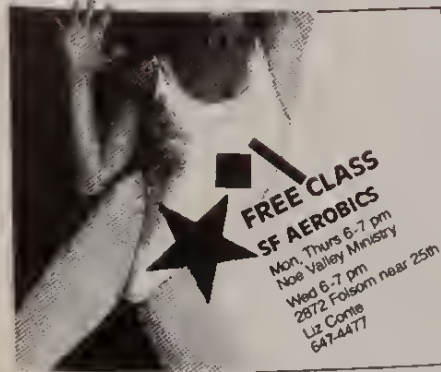
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CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1985



John Fahey has changed in appearance but not in the psychedelic folksiness we remember from the early seventies. He'll be playing at the Noe Valley Ministry in company with local strummer Dale Miller on Dec. 27.

DEC. 1-24: Visit the CHRISTMAS-SALE of ceramic art, including tableware, sculpture and jewelry, at the Ruby O'Burke Artists' Workshop, 552A Noe St. near 19th St. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily 861-9779

DEC. 1-24: FOLK ART SALE, a tempting array of colorful folk art and handcrafted gifts from Mexico and Latin America. Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2851 24th St. Call 826-8009 for shopping hours

DEC. 1-31: GROUP SHOW featuring 30 Bay Area artists. Ceramics, glass, paintings, jewelry, wearable art. Art Options, 1600 Church St. 641-1892

DEC. 1-JAN. 15: "CHANGING FACES," an exhibit of digitized photographs by photographer Irene Young and hair and fashion stylist Shana Penn. Tech Art, 3915 24th St. 550-1110

DEC. 2-21: Special holiday DANCE WORKSHOP taught by Beth Abrams. 3435 Army St., Suite 208. 282-6177

DEC. 2-30: "ART AGAINST APARTHEID," a group exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by artists who have made a cultural contribution to the Free South Africa Movement. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 536-2331

DEC. 4-JAN. 12: Eureka Theatre Company presents "FEN," a many-sided story of life in the rural farmland of southern England written by Caryl Churchill, author of "Top Girls" and "Cloud 9." 2730 16th St. at Harrison. 558-9898

DEC. 5-21: "High Ledges and Soft Shoes," a 12-evening series of PERFORMANCES, features 17 San Francisco artists whose works bridge the boundaries between acting and dance. Studio Eremos, 499 Alabama St. at Project Artaud. 8 p.m. 621-8875

DEC. 7, 8, 14, 15: Sixth annual WINTER ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR celebrating women in the arts. Handmade arts and crafts by Bay Area craftswomen and artists. Round-the-clock entertainment with the Robin Flower Band, Gwen Avery, Silvia Kohan, Wake Robin Fiddlers, Puppetwork and more. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. 431-1180

DEC. 8-JAN. 17: Cradle of the Sun sponsors the Sixth Annual Advent/Christmas STAINED GLASS SHOW at Gallery Sanchez in the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 282-2317 for hours

DEC. 10: FILM PROGRAMS for ages 3 to 5, featuring "Mole and the Christmas Tree," "Three Little Pigs" and "Curious George Rides a Bike," 10 and 11 a.m. For ages 6 and older "The Snowman," "The Golden Fish" and "Three Little Pigs," 3:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788

DEC. 10: FICTION WRITERS' OPEN READING co-sponsored by the S.F. Writers' Union. New and experienced writers read short stories, novels, etc. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. (Register at 7:30 p.m. for a 15-minute slot.) 282-9246

DEC. 11: ALUMNAE RESOURCES sponsors a workshop in developing salary negotiation techniques, led by Miriam Aaldie. 660 Mission St. 6-8:30 p.m. 546-7220

DEC. 11: Paper and pens are provided at an evening of PEACE & JUSTICE LETTER-WRITING sponsored by the Noe Valley Affinity Group and Noe Valley Neighborhood Freeze Group. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 285-4832

DEC. 11: OPEN READING for lesbian and gay male poets. Both readers and listeners are encouraged to attend. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

DEC. 13: SHORT FILMS AND ANIMATION, a salute to the Canadian Film Board. Noe Valley Cinema, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 13: NOE VALLEY VOICE HOLIDAY BASH, featuring music by "Hut-Hut," belly dancing, and appearances by the Voice staff up-close-and-personal \$2 donation. Zorba's, 4026 24th St. 8 p.m. -midnight

DEC. 14: The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble presents the CHRISTMAS OPERETTA "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. 826-8670

DEC. 14: Gay/feminist singer-songwriter BETTY KAPLOWITZ performs original material. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246

DEC. 14: Friends of St. Francis Childcare Center CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE AND RUMMAGE SALE. Discovery Toys, baked goods, and lots of other Christmas items. St. Francis Church, 152 Church St. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 431-2916 or 861-1818.

DEC. 15: BENEFIT CONCERT for the Noe Valley Ministry Salvadoran refugee program. Music, dancing, poetry and puppets. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7 p.m. 621-4225 or 282-2317

DEC. 15: DANCING CHRISTMAS CAROLS in the street, followed by an Advent study/discussion. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 5:30-8 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 15: JAN ZOBEL teaches a four-hour SEMINAR on "Basic Record-keeping and Tax Information for Self-Employed People." 23rd and Valencia Streets. 821-1015

DEC. 18: XMAS EXTRAVAGANZA, featuring "Rainbow Christmas," a play presented by the Tiny Tots class, caroling, Santa Claus, party and potluck dinner. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez Streets. 6-9 p.m. 647-2474

DEC. 19: The Kidding Around Series presents NANCY FOX ANOTHER PROPPETTS in a puppet show for kids, moms and dads. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 2:30 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 19: Author JUNE RACHUY BRINDEL celebrates the publication of *Phaedra*, a novel about power and faith that brings a woman's perspective to the Greek myths. "Old Wives' Tales," 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

DEC. 19-JAN. 26: PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT featuring work by John Banasiak, Thomas Neft and Susan Schwartzberg. Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. Reception Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. 431-6911

DEC. 20: "A Song for Mexico—Una Cancion Para Mexico," a BENEFIT CONCERT for homeless victims of Mexico's Sept. 19 and 20 earthquakes, featuring Mexican music sung and performed by a score of Mexican artists. Mission High School auditorium, 18th Street between Olores and Church. 6-10 p.m. 664-3875

DEC. 20: CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE on 24th Street. Sponsored by the Noe Valley Affinity Group. 5:30-8 p.m. 285-4832

DEC. 21: WALKING TOUR of the Mission District murals conducted by a muralist from Precita Eyes Mural Center, 348 Precita Ave. near Folsom. 1:30-3 p.m. 285-2287

DEC. 21: GOLOEN BOUGH presents a special Christmas concert featuring old world carols and music from Celtic, Scandinavian and British traditions. Noe Valley Music, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 21: The SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT CHORALE leads a Christmas carol sing-along at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 2:30 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 22: The Noe Valley Ministry sponsors an evening of NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING that will include visits to homes of shut-ins and AIOS patients. Meet at 1021 Sanchez St. 5:30 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, with carols, special music, Christmas readings and a story for all ages. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7 p.m. 282-2317

DEC. 27: GUITARIST JOHN FAHEY teams up with Noe Valley Music's Dale Miller in concert. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 821-6644

DEC. 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY to raise money for material aid to Nicaragua. Dancing to the Loolers, free champagne. The Farm, 1499 Potrero Ave. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. 431-7760

JAN. 11: JESSICA WILLIAMS performs solo piano in her last U.S. appearance before moving to Germany. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

JAN. 12: The Kidding Around series presents HARRIET SCHIFFER performing the comedy monologue "Other Things That Fly" (specially adapted for children). Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 2:30 p.m. 282-2317

JAN. 12: "Shoot Your Own Family," VIDEOS by Skip Sweeney ("My Father Sold Studebakers" and "My Mother Married Wilbur Slump") and Aron Ranen ("The Seder"). Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 431-6911

JAN. 17 & 18: "LATE SATURDAY NIGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL," an evening of divine humor with comedian Harriet Schiffer. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

JANUARY 1986



World-renowned Noe Valley comedian and playwright Harriet Schiffer has adapted her "Other Things That Fly" for children. She'll bring it on home for the Kidding Around series at the Noe Valley Ministry Jan. 12, 17 and 18.

JAN. 3: NOE VALLEY CINEMA presents "The Lady Vanishes," directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

JAN. 5: Friends of Noe Valley holds its general meeting and ANNUAL POTLUCK at 875 Castro St. 4-7 p.m. 826-2304

JAN. 8: OPEN HOUSE for prospective students and parents at 100-year-old Lick-Wilmerding High School, a nonprofit, independent, co-educational, college-prep school. 755 Ocean Ave. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 333-4021

JAN. 10: "The Original Flash Gordon" will be the feature presentation of NOE VALLEY CINEMA. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

JAN. 24: NOE VALLEY CINEMA presents "The Tin Drum," directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

JAN. 25: BONNIE BARNETT brings her "tunnel hum" along with other vocal and audience-participation pieces to the Noe Valley Music series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

JAN. 31: "DUCK SOUP," with the Marx Brothers, is served at Noe Valley Cinema. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 1: Vocal wizard BOBBY McFERRIN is back by popular demand at the Noe Valley Music series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

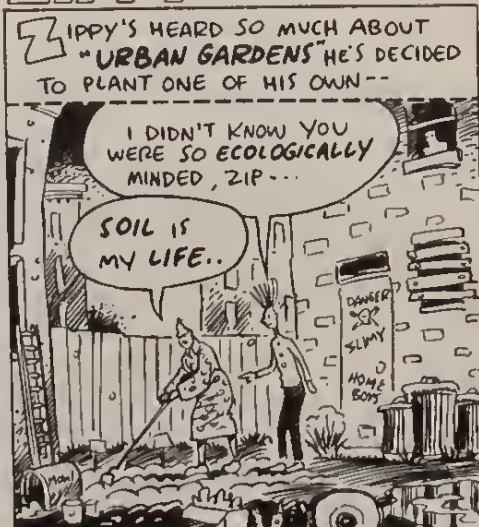
ONGDING: YOGA CLASSES in the Iyengar tradition. Pam Field, instructor. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11 a.m. 661-2587

ONGDING: JOB LISTINGS & COUNSELING for women over forty, with Patricia Rodriguez. Options for Women Over Forty, the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. First-time applicants, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 431-6405

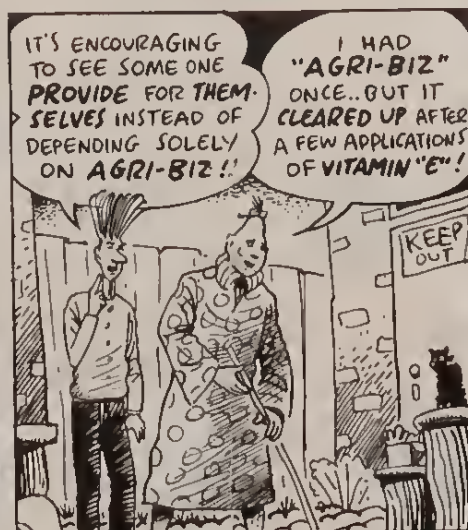
ONGDING: FREE JOB TRAINING in secretarial, accounting, word processing and computer skills. John Adams Community College Center, 1860 Hayes St. 561-1900

ONGDING: The Community Advisory Council for Special Education invites those interested in improving the quality of SPECIAL EDUCATION programs to attend its monthly meeting on the second Thursday of the month at Sunnyside Elementary School, 250 Foerster St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 731-8543

ZIPPY



"THE REAL DIRT"



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Please note: our next issue will appear Feb. 1, 1986 (we're on vacation for the month of January), the deadline for calendar items is Jan. 15.